

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 12076 100606Z

14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 DHA-02 DPW-01 SAM-01 IO-10 /088 W

----- 060660

R 100543Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7440

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS PFOR TW US CH

SUBJ: "US-CHIANG ARMED AGENTS AND CREW" HEAD FOR HOME

REF: A) TAIPEI 6572 B) HONG KONG 11561 AND C) HONG KONG 11193

1. ON TAIWAN'S OCTOBER 10 NATIONAL DAY, LOCAL PRC-OWNED NEWS-PAPERS IN HONG KONG HAVE FEATURED A PHOTOGRAPH OF 60 "US-CHIANG ARMED AGENTS AND CREW MEMBERS" WHO WERE RECENTLY RELEASED FROM PRC PRISONS DEPARTING AMOY VIA BOAT FOR QUEMOY AND A BRIEF AP DISPATCH FROM TAIPEI REPORTING THEIR ARRIVAL ON THE NATIONAL-IST-HELD ISLAND. EARLIER ON OCTOBER 8, NCNA REPORTED THE MEN'S DEPARTURE FROM AMOY AND THE ARRIVAL OF FIVE OTHERS IN HONG KONG THE SAME DAY VIA TRAIN. TWO OF THE FIVE HAVE ALREADY JOINED RELATIVES IN HONG KONG AND MACAU WHILE THE OTHER THREE HAVE TOLD REPORTERS OF THEIR HOPES TO REUNITE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH FAMILIES ON TAIWAN.

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2. THE DECISION TO PROVIDE A SHIP TO SAIL THE 60 RELEASEES TO QUEMOY APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY THE PRC BROADCAST OF

OCTOBER 5 INDICATING THAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE MEN ON THE ISLANDS (REF A). IN THIS MANNER, PEKING HAS DIVESTED ITSELF OF 60 MEN AND SCORED A 'UNITED FRONT' VICTORY OF SORTS, WHILE PERHAPS COUNTING ON THE OTHER FIVE IN HONG KONG TO PROVIDE CONTINUING AND CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY TO THE MEN'S PLIGHT OF VIS-A-VIS TAIWAN AUTHORITIES AS IN THE CASE OF THE 10 "EX-KMT WAR CRIMINALS." INITIAL PUBLICITY HAS BEEN ALL THAT THE PRC COULD HAVE HOPED FOR, WITH THE MEN COMMENTING ON THE HOPELESSNESS OF THEIR SPY MISSIONS, EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE PRC FOR THEIR RELEASE, AND INDICATING THAT EACH HAD BEEN GIVEN HK\$1,000 (APPRO. US \$200) FOR EXPENSES IN HONG KONG. WITH TWO OF THE RELEASEES ALREADY DEFINITELY STATING A DECISION TO REMAIN HERE, THE OTHER THREE WILL STILL PROVIDE THE PRC WITH CONSIDERABLE PROPAGANDA VALUE WHILE TAIWAN AUTHORITIES DETERMINE THEIR RESPONSE.

CROSS

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